

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
August 11, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:29 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Mr. Bushemi gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Widing was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**  
None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated August 11, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2015. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann read the press release that stated effective on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 6:00 a.m. 73rd Avenue traffic will ONLY be able to go eastbound from Broadway to Mississippi Street until further notice. Westbound traffic may use east 61st Avenue or U.S. 30 as an alternate route.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:** Mrs. Miano had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:** Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Mr. Widing was absent, no report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mrs. Miano commended Roger Ault on a job well done with keeping the parks nicely maintained. A Senior Picnic was held on Friday, August 7, 2015. Approximately fifty people were in attendance. Ms. Orlich stated that the Neverly Brothers concert in the park will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2015 from 7 to 9 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Goralczyk had no report. Mr. Lake stated that a Hoosier Riverwatch Workshop was held at the Stormwater Resource Center on August 5, 2015. Attendees were teachers from the Merrillville Community School Corporation. Starting August 18, 2015 the Gary Sanitary District will be conducting smoke testing on the sanitary pipes. A meeting to discuss this matter further will take place on August 17, 2015 at the Stormwater Resource Center.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano stated that the 3rd Annual National Night Out was successful. There were approximately 200 to 250 people in attendance. Mr. Hardaway had approximately 100 people that attended Ward 2 - National Night Out. She went on to thank all who participated in making this day a success. Mrs. Barron thanked Chief Petruch and the multiple businesses within the community for their generous donations.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron stated that we will have a total of 9 benches installed this year from the caps program. She went on to provide some updates regarding the bike trails & tunnels.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

Mr. Hardaway provided a brief update related to the progress of vacant and abandoned properties within the community. He mentioned that the first vacant business building that the town is looking to target will be the former nursing home located on 61<sup>st</sup> Ave.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-17:** An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, providing that the Zoning Ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established C-3 Highway Commercial zoning classification to a planned unit development, mixed use zoning classification. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was some discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 15-25:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 15-26:** A Resolution Proclaiming September as Childhood Cancer Awareness. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was some discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Wise Guys Discount Liquors  
**Owner:** Merrill Point Center, LLC  
**Request:** To allow an off premise freestanding sign  
**Purpose:** For advertising  
**Location:** 9231 Taft Street  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial  
**Case #:** Z28uV7-0715  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.  
When property is developed this sign must be removed due to the existing freestanding sign being non-conforming and only one sign is permitted per zoning lot.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Petitioner:** Yousef Alahmad  
**Owner:** ICD  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** For a used car lot  
**Location:** 5924 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial  
**Case #:** Z29E8-0715  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.  
Must remove all hoist racks from inside of building.  
No more than ten (10) cars on lot.  
Site improvements to be completed – Striping and Landscaping.

There was discussion among the council related to this request. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to table the petition until after the workshop, which will be held on August 25, 2015 and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Hardaway stated the CVS located at 53rd & Broadway has until the end of the week for repairs to be completed and up to Merrillville's standards.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Goralczyk mentioned that a few ordinances will be discussed at the upcoming workshop. Among them will be an ordinance related to gun cases, scrappers, and solicitation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Plan Commission meeting, August 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Abandoned Blighted Properties Commission meeting, August 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.  
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, August 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.  
Workshop, August 25, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, August 25, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Pettit.

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Tom Goralczyk, President

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Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer